

dedicated young women, for they are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO SWEDISH AMBASSADOR JAN ELIASSON AND HIS STATEMENT ON RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Ambassador Jan Eliasson—ambassador of Sweden to the United States. I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a particularly important speech which he gave before he assumed his current position at a special fiftieth anniversary commemoration marking the disappearance of Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. That address was given in the Swedish Parliament on January 17, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Eliasson has a distinguished career in the Swedish diplomatic service. He achieved international attention in 1991, when he was able to utilize his extensive knowledge of economics with a humanitarian purpose in serving as both the Vice President of the United Nations Economic and Social Counsel (ECOSOC) and as the Chairman of the U.N.'s emergency relief group. As the Vice President of the ECOSOC, Ambassador Eliasson was responsible for coordinating activities of social, economic, and humanitarian importance.

Ambassador Eliasson is not only an outstanding diplomat but also a great humanitarian, who embodies the highest and noblest values Sweden has contributed to western civilization. After being named Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs of the U.N., one of his first initiatives was to eliminate the problem of active land mines in countries such as Mozambique. Aid agencies were hired out to demine the most dangerous civilian populated regions of the country. Ambassador Eliasson publicly denounced the further production of land mines under existing law.

From October 1994 to September 2000 Ambassador Eliasson was Sweden's Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs. In this position, his voice was particularly significant in formulating and implementing Swedish foreign policy. He continued to incorporate economic pragmatism, social development, and international peace and security into his agenda while serving in this capacity.

Mr. Speaker, for the past two years, Jan Eliasson has served as the Swedish Ambassador to the United States. I am pleased that he is still dedicated to the humanitarian goals that have marked his long and distinguished diplomatic career and which clearly represent the best of Sweden. Ambassador Eliasson's commitment to helping other people mirrors the compassion that Raoul Wallenberg so nobly embodied during his unique rescue mission, in my native land of Hungary.

In his 1995 address to the Swedish parliament, Ambassador Eliasson said, "Raoul Wallenberg lives on." Anyone that dedicates his or her life to peaceful diplomacy and humanitarian causes as Ambassador Eliasson has done is carrying on Wallenberg's humanitarian tradition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador Eliasson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ambassador Eliasson's address to the Swedish Parliament on the fiftieth anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg be placed in the RECORD. It is an outstanding statement of Wallenberg's humanitarian commitment, and it reflects as well the thoughtful commitment to democracy, human rights, and humanitarian action that Ambassador Jan Eliasson represents.

ADDRESS TO THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG BY AMBASSADOR JAN ELIASSON

Looking back at his life in his autobiography, from the perspective of an ageing man, the philosopher Bertrand Russell said: "Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair."

Perhaps Raoul Wallenberg would not have chosen precisely these words if he were looking back on his life today. But Bertrand Russell puts into words what I believe were also Raoul Wallenberg's strongest driving forces. And Russell also formulates the course which Raoul Wallenberg would probably want all of us to take in today's bewildering and violent world.

Most of what I know about Raoul Wallenberg comes from books, and from the think dossiers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. But many of the most important and finest things I know about Raoul Wallenberg I have learnt from his close relative, his friends, and some of those who were saved from the Holocaust.

There are three concepts which have been etched into my memory, when I have been going through what I have read and heard about Raoul: action, passion, and it goes without saying, I am going to attempt to describe Raoul Wallenberg as a person in terms of these three words. And I will also be using them as my starting point when I try to explain the example he sets.

What was Raoul Wallenberg's action? We know that he saved the lives of tens of thousands of people, together with brave and loyal colleagues. We know that he helped to prevent the destruction of the ghetto in Budapest, thus also preventing the murder of a further 60,000 people. And we know that he became one of the outside witnesses—the eyes and ears of the international community—in an inferno on earth, at a time of horrific human degradation.

When we read his letters to his grandfather—we must remember that his father died before Raoul was born—we see few signs that he was preparing himself for a task or a role of this nature. He had studied in America, worked in offices in Cape Town and Haifa, and he had discussed various possible careers in some detail with his grandfather. Was he to become an architect, a banker, or a businessman?

From his letters, he seems to have been carefree, active, full of curiosity and ideas and agreeable self-ironic. He once hitchhiked from Michigan to Los Angeles, where his birthday coincided with the pomp and circumstances of the 1932 Olympics. "My birthday was a quiet affair, since I had asked the civic authorities not to go to any special trouble," he told his grandfather in a slightly bantering tone.

Nonetheless, in the years he spent in America, there were already signs that action was waiting for Raoul Wallenberg. On one occasion when he was the victim of a

holdup, he kept his sang-froid, requesting that he be driven to a main road after he was robbed. Afterwards, he merely regretted that he had not made a better job about bluffing about how much money he had on him.

He was restless, waiting for something important to do, something meaningful. It was easy to understand that his heroes were Dumas' three musketeers, and Pimpernel Smith, whose final words in the film were—incidentally—"I always come back".

Nothing seemed to be difficult, or impossible for him. He even believed that he could tackle his incipient baldness if he shaved off all his hair. A man of action, certainly but also man who totally lacked a sense of prestige and who was not interested in appearances.

And then action and Raoul Wallenberg fused together in the summer of 1944. He has six months to save as many as possible of the 200,000 Jews who still remained in Hungary—after the death or the deportation of more than 600,000. "When does the next train leave?" he asked Nina and Gunnar, his sister and her husband when he learnt in Berlin, on his way to Hungary, that the travel agency had given him a day of rest. He could not afford to waste a single hour.

Once he arrived in Budapest, he started to organize things at a hectic pace, designing new protection passports and building up a closely meshed network of contacts—ranging from members of the Jewish Council to the wife of the Foreign Minister, and from his laundress to the detestable Adolf Eichmann, whom he asked to dinner (which he subsequently forgot or subconsciously suppressed, since he was so full of the thousands of other things which he had to do).

The spirit of action was something which expanded ceaselessly, slowly permeating him. When the thugs of the Arrow Cross—Hungary's Quislings—took over the autumn of 1944, the situation became unbearable and the cruelty almost indescribable. Raoul was like the Dutch boy who put one finger after the other in the various holes to stop the dam bursting. Many lives were saved as the result of the meticulous planning, others by ruses and provisions in various languages and in different keys.

But many, many people were murdered before his eyes. And often he arrived too late or was not able to intervene and stop the inferno. He saw people slip away, disappear, die—as when thousands of Jewish women and children, clad in high heeled or thin-soled shoes, were forced to trudge in the slush, day and night, without food and water for 150 miles to the border—and there a fraction of them were subjected to a roll-call, with traditional thoroughness, by Eichmann's command.

I am sure that in these situations he thought of the danger in delay, the damage caused by waiting too long and not acting in time, of being forced to focus on putting out the cruel flames instead of looking for arsonists and the causes of the fire. Arriving in time, to forestall and take preventive action, is basically a question of respect for life and respect for human dignity.

It was with this in mind with Raoul formulated a plan, together with his co-workers, in the last weeks in Budapest, for the rebirth and rehabilitation of the scattered remaining Jews in Hungary. He planned for tomorrow, for survival, in order to plant the trees that must grow. I am convinced that he had this plan in his rucksack—he did not have a briefcase—when he got into the black limousine en route for the Russian headquarters exactly 50 years ago today.

To move on to my second keyword: *passion*, not only Bertrand Russell's compassion, but also Raoul Wallenberg's fervor and capacity to amuse his friends with the quick-fire

macabre humor, in spite of the horrors, and to inspire other people to great exploits, to work day and night. It was a case of "saving as many people as possible, to snatch as many as possible from the clutches of the murders," as he wrote in a letter in July 1944.

In Wallenberg, passion and compassion lived, side by side, in symbiosis. Both are necessary for action and results. The American Wallenberg Committee has characteristically chosen as its motto the words of Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing".

But for Wallenberg, there was no choice. There is no decision-making process in the face of evil. The phrase "it goes without saying" became Raoul Wallenberg's invisible companion.

He did not question whether he should go to Hungary. He did not ask any questions when he was awakened in the middle of the night in Budapest and took his bicycle to the "Swedish houses". With the streets filled with loudmouthed supporters of the Arrow Cross, who were running amok, raping or trading in human beings. He knew which path he had to walk. He had an unfailing moral compass.

Thus, Raoul Wallenberg also set an example. He was one of us, a man who showed that action is possible and necessary. He showed that we do not always need to be prepared or to take deliberate decisions to do what is right. He showed that we can all rise to the occasion, which can then take over and inspire us to superhuman effort. He showed that powerlessness does indeed exist—but that it can be overcome by tackling one problem at a time and by always working and planning for a better future, for a new sense of fellowship.

One of the books I read describes a long conversation Raoul had with a young girl about the League of Nations. He seemed much more interested in what the League of Nations—the United Nations of that time—should do than in the girl. His sister Nina also noted this.

This episode comes to mind when we look around the world today, searching for a Raoul Wallenberg. He would be needed in Pol Pot's Cambodia, in Idi Amin's Uganda, in the civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, in Somalia in 1992, in the genocide of Rwanda and in the nightmare of Bosnia. Many were there—but were we too few? Were we—were we—onlookers on too great an extent? Where was the action, the passion and "it goes without saying"?

Raoul Wallenberg lives on. We must not give up on our efforts to have a full account of his fate. We had strong expectations that a new, open and truthful Russia would help us achieve this clarity. Let us hope that today's Chechen tragedy will not stop the ultimate triumph of the forces of democracy and openness.

Russia can show that these forces cannot be conquered, either by producing Raoul Wallenberg or the whole truth about him. This can be achieved in the Swedish-Russian Commission which, since 1991, has been systematically examining documents and available information.

The central issue is not the Wallenberg case or affair. It is Raoul Wallenberg as a *human being*. And, in the final analysis, the end of the Cold War should be a matter of focusing on human beings. We should stop viewing nations as pawns on a geopolitical chessboard but instead see them as societies with people who have to right to political freedom, to economic and social justice and to a life in dignity for all.

For me, this is Raoul Wallenberg's message. That is why Raoul Wallenberg lives on.

During his work in Hungary in the reign of terror, in the ghetto and on the streets, he looked the victim in the eye and tried to erase all the power games, all the prejudices and all the hate that encompassed this individual human being.

He saw the forces of evil, but he never gave up the hope, and never stopped taking action.

What more do we need today?

HONORING RONALD MARTELLA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald Martella for receiving the 2002 Businessman/Agricultural Leader of the Year Award from the Hughson Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Martella has been an active member of the Hughson community for many years and his dedication is deservedly commended.

Mr. Martella is the current chairman of the California Canning Peach Association. He is also a board member of the Ag Council of California and the Growers Harvesting Committee. Ronald is on the Board of the Hughson Chamber of Commerce and the Hughson Redevelopment Agency.

Ronald currently serves the community through these organizations, but his involvement is not just a recent venture. He volunteered as a fireman for 19 years, is the former chairman of the Hughson Youth Center Board of Directors, and served on Hughson Union High School's Agricultural Steering Committee. Mr. Martella is an active member of his church through his involvement in the Knights of Columbus and the church choir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald Martella for receiving the 2002 Businessman/Agricultural Leader of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his tremendous service to the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE OF HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Urban League of Hudson County in celebration of its 24th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner Dance on May 3, 2002, at Casino-in-the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Founded in 1971, the Urban League of Hudson County, which is associated with the National Urban League, is a nonprofit community-based organization dedicated to advocating initiatives that allow local residents to participate in the development of their neighborhoods, as well as achieve economic self-reliance.

The Urban League of Hudson County works in association with community groups, as well as government and corporate sponsors. It provides services in the areas of education,

mentorship, economic development, job placement, childcare, family counseling, and programs for senior citizens through the help of its dedicated staff. Programs sponsored by the Urban League include Children's Services, Health and Human Services, Employment and Training, Affordable Housing and Community Development, and Communications and Fund Development.

I strongly believe in the mission of the Urban League, and have successfully obtained grants for the construction of its Workforce Development Center, as well as critical funding for the Affordable Housing and Community Development Corporation, and AmeriCorps. I look forward to continuing my work with the Urban League to fulfill the economic dreams of all our citizens in the 13th, District and across the country. The Urban League continues its work to improve the lives of those less fortunate in our community, and I am proud of their positive impact and dedication.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Urban League of Hudson County for its service to the people of Hudson County. The Urban League's generous and selfless work never goes unnoticed, and I am grateful for all it does.

HONORING THE WEST WARWICK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REPRESENTING RHODE ISLAND IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" COMPETITION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young people from West Warwick Senior High School. These students will represent Rhode Island in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" Civics Competition being held from May 4–6 here in Washington, DC. The program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and more than 1,200 students from across the United States will participate in this 3-day event. Participants will give presentations on current constitutional issues, and be judged on their depth of understanding and their ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The Rhode Island representatives in this year's competition are: Najiya Abdul-Hakim, Janice Abueg, Peter Calci III, Kristin Capaldo, Elizabeth Champagne, Tara Cooney, Tara Czop, Paul DiMartino, Thomas Driscoll, Christopher Ellis, Tinisha Goldson, Kenneth Halpern, Sarah Johnson, Alyssa Lavallee, Robert Martin, Michael Muschiano, Lindsay Nagel, Michael Oulette, Anthony Politelli, Michael Ryan, Kendall Sylvia, Sarah Smith, Corey St. Saveur, Kate Studley, Erin Watson, and Shane Wilcox. The team is led by teacher Marc LeBlanc. I congratulate them all on their success thus far.

It is inspiring to see these young people exercise their knowledge of the fundamental ideals and principles of our government. These principles formed the historical foundation for our way of life, and they provide the framework for the future. I commend the participants from West Warwick High School for